

August 8, 1947

STOCKS OF FIELD SEEDS CARRIED OVER BY DEALERS
SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR AND ALSO BELOW AVERAGE

Stocks of 34 field seeds, totaling nearly 116.7 million pounds, held on June 30 by dealers and the Government were in the aggregate 23 percent smaller than a year ago and 44 percent below the 1941-45 average, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. This statement is based on a Nation-wide survey in which more than 1,000 seed dealers reported.

Stocks of 22 kinds were smaller this year than last, and 24 kinds were below average. Dealers' stocks at the end of June were the smallest on record (since 1939) for crimson clover, redtop, and Kentucky bluegrass. But stocks of alfalfa, orchard grass, meadow fescue, bentgrass, and common ryegrass were the largest ever recorded.

The greatest decreases in stocks this year occurred with the winter cover crop seeds as a group -- vetches, Austrian Winter peas, blue lupine, crimson clover, and ryegrass. Stocks of these seeds, 39 percent smaller than in 1946, were only about one-third of the 5-year average. Grass-seed stocks were 25 percent smaller than last year and 33 percent below average. Although stocks of alfalfa and clover seed were more than twice (217%) as large as in 1946, they were 5 percent below average.

The nine kinds of seeds for which stocks showed the most marked reductions from last year are Kobe lespedeza (1947 stocks only 4 percent of the 1946 stocks), Austrian Winter peas (7%), carpet grass (8%), crimson clover (20%), crested wheatgrass (20%), Dallis grass (32%), hairy vetch (35%), Korean lespedeza (36%), and other lespedeza (37%). The six kinds whose stocks exceeded most those of last year are orchard grass (1947 stocks 337 percent of 1946 stocks) alfalfa (332%), common ryegrass (296%), alsike clover (295%), red clover (270%), and white clover (252%).

Compared with the 5-year average, declines in stocks were most marked for Austrian Winter peas (1947 stocks only 4 percent of average), crimson clover (5%), carpet grass (8%), crested wheatgrass (9%), Kentucky bluegrass (12%), other vetches (20%), Kobe lespedeza (24%), sorgo (30%), and hairy vetch (31%). Increases over the average were greatest for orchard grass (1947 stocks 493 percent of average), common ryegrass (256%), alfalfa (221%), Chewing fescue (217%), meadow fescue (172%), and Ladino clover (167%).

The figures in the table on the reverse side cover stocks of old seed on June 30 held by 1,025 dealers, whose carry-over probably represented 90 percent or more of the seed held by all the dealers in the United States, and also by the Government. In addition to these stocks, millions of pounds of old seed were carried over on farms. The farm carry-overs of important kinds of field seeds will be given in production forecast reports this year, as has been done in recent years.

(Over)

STOCKS OF FIELD SEEDS ON JUNE 30, 1942-47, AND AVERAGE 1941-45
(SEED PRODUCED PRIOR TO YEAR SHOWN THAT WAS OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY 1,025 SEEDSMAN AND IMPORTANT COUNTRY SHIPPERS AND BY THE GOVERNMENT)

Kind of Seed	Average 1941-45	T H O U S A N D P O U N D S					
		1942 1/	1943 1/	1944 1/	1945 1/	1946 1/	1947 1/
ALFALFA	7,004	10,636	3,821	4,730	4,090	4,670	15,512
CLOVERS:							
Red	9,942	20,192	10,870	3,378	2,675	1,473	3,982
Alsike	2,664	5,033	2,279	1,050	459	596	1,760
Sweet	6,316	8,996	5,962	2,940	5,541	4,274	3,084
White Dutch	538	861	569	585	318	339	853
Ladino	114	206	64	59	209	337	190
Crimson	2,791	3,564	6,302	1,637	260	646	128
LESPEDEZA:							
Korean	8,174	11,286	3,767	2,304	21,224	16,144	5,765
Kobe	361	965	259	29	513	2,081	85
Other	204	224	386	45	329	298	110
Hairy vetch	6,494	2,840	11,202	6,865	8,518	5,671	1,987
Other vetch	10,236	2,480	15,928	16,803	15,201	3,247	2,025
Austrian Winter peas	57,843	1,643	61,093	128,057	97,730	34,241	2,395
Blue lupine	4/ 562	3/	3/	840	284	1	688
Rapeseed (For sowing)	1,508	571	2,881	2,654	1,114	824	1,711
Sorgo ("Cane")	7,217	9,804	8,963	1,882	6,239	2,467	2,201
GRASSES:							
Timothy	23,213	12,058	26,365	36,812	25,137	17,823	16,158
Redtop	11,316	13,837	13,495	9,575	7,362	11,332	5,733
Kentucky bluagrass	10,919	10,265	19,466	11,551	4,232	2,126	1,278
Orchard grass	376	404	256	456	392	550	1,852
Chewings fescue	2/ 532	3/	558	517	522	747	1,152
Meadow fescue	236	185	182	293	266	207	406
Bentgrass	412	354	521	461	347	408	629
Bromegrass	2,485	2,159	4,147	3,363	2,537	3,885	2,050
Crested wheatgrass	1,574	987	863	1,831	3,667	737	146
Slender wheatgrass	2/ 427	3/	157	442	682	356	238
Western wheatgrass	2/ 90	3/	62	45	164	18	37
Common ryegrass	9,498	8,769	9,467	9,354	11,439	8,228	24,334
Sudan grass	18,110	18,652	7,910	8,732	40,679	24,259	17,128
Bermuda grass	2/ 135	3/	16	58	330	202	105
Carpet grass	84	152	11	42	162	93	7
Dallis grass	2/ 141	3/	153	153	116	208	67
MILLETS (For sowing)							
Proso (Hog)	2/ 1,873	6/	1,238	1,651	2,729	2,642	1,223
Other	2/ 3,363	5/ 6,838	5,934	1,437	2,717	1,272	1,655

1/ Includes stocks of seed produced prior to year shown owned or controlled by the Government on June 30 as follows:

Kind	1944	1945	1946	1947	Kind	1944	1945	1946	1947
Alfalfa		44	0		Timothy	304	15	179	0
Sweetclover		34	0		Redtop	--	--	241	0
White clover	7/	13	2	0	Orchard grass	115	7/	75	0
Ladino clover	0	5	76	0	Chewings fescue	--	--	23	0
Crimson clover	611	19	7/	0	Meadow fescue	78	7/	1	0
Kobe lespedeza	--	--	1,527	0	Bromegrass	0	54	63	0
Other lespedeza	--	--	1	0	Crest. whtgrass	0	2,437	11	0
Hairy vetch	1,702	2,566	0	0	Slen. whtgrass	0	45	54	0
Other vetches	12,272	12,114	204	0	West. whtgrass	0	54	0	0
Aust. W. peas	125,729	97,329	7/	0	Com. ryegrass	256	5,701	2	20,943
Blue lupine	802	281	0	681	Sudan grass	0	33,384	14,202	8,112
Rapeseed	22	22	0	0	Bermuda grass	0	3	71	0

2/ 3-year average. 3/ No data available. 4/ 2-year average. 5/ All millets for sowing.

6/ Included with other (all) millets for sowing. 7/ Less than 1,000 pounds.